

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

July 24, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document # 43254

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Amendment 03-03 to the
2003/05 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

We have completed our review of Amendment 03-03 of the MTIP to the State Highway and Transit Elements of the SACOG 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted to us by your letter dated July 1, 2003. SACOG adopted this amendment on June 19, 2003, with Resolution No. 14 - 2003, approving program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the SACOG MTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment adds, modifies or deletes projects from various funding programs in the SACOG planning area. They include projects with funding from the National Highway System (NHS), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR) program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, Federal Demonstration Program, Federal Discretionary Program, Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) and various Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs.

Based on our review, the changes proposed to the 2002/03 FSTIP require no new regional emissions analysis for a conformity determination because projects included in this amendment either do not require a new regional emissions analysis per the provisions of 40 CFR 93.122(e)(1), or are the type of projects listed in 40 CFR 93.126 or 93.127 as being exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements. We find that the amended MTIP through Amendment No. 03-03 conforms to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*. This approval was made after consultation with the EPA pursuant to the *Transportation Conformity Rule*.

This letter constitutes approval and inclusion of SACOG's FTIP Amendment No. 03-03 into California's 2002/03 - 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP), excluding the following transit projects:

REG 15040 - Amtrak/Folsom Corridor Light Rail Project
PLA 20291 - Roseville Multitransit Center
REG 16680 - RT Preventative Maintenance
REG 16810 - SRTD CNG Bus Acquisition

Approval and inclusion of items REG 16680 and REG 16810 may be provided in the future, pending SACOG working with FTA to resolve ongoing concerns. Once such concerns are resolved, these projects may be resubmitted for programming approval.

With exclusions as noted, we accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that the amended MTIP was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607).

Furthermore, this approval is made with the understanding that FTA funding on individual projects contained in the FSTIP is subject to the grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements. Please contact Mr. Leigh Levine, FHWA, at 916-498-5034 or Mr. Jerome Wiggins, FTA, at 415-744-2819 if you have any questions regarding this amendment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

/s/ K. Sue Kiser

For
Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc:

(E-mail)

Karina O'Connor, EPA Region IX
Jerome Wiggins, FTA Region IX
Randy Steen, Caltrans, Federal Resources Branch
Jim Nicholas, Caltrans, Transportation Programming
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(Other)

SACOG FY 2003 FTIP Binder

LLevine: